



Dendrobates tinctorius
(2 White morph variants).

AMERICAN DENDROBATID GROUP



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The purpose of the ADG is to distribute information on captive maintenance and propagation of Dendrobatid frogs, and to develop better communication between Dendrobatid breeders. The ADG is also interested in the maintenance and propagation of Mantellid frogs and Atelopid toads. Its format and every other month distribution are designed to provide current information and new developments in the hobby. This newsletter appears six time a year at a cost \$10.00 per calendar year. Back issues for 1992 are available for \$5.00; back issues for 1993 and 1994 are available for \$10.00/year.

Subscriptions, comments, etc. should be sent to Charles Powell (2932 Sunburst Dr., San Jose, CA 95111 Tel.: (408) 363-0926).

Notes from the Editor

Membership will be increased for 1996 to \$15. Please fill out the enclosed form and send in your check today so you don't miss any issues of the American Dendrobatid Group Newsletter. Thanks.

I want to thank all the people who made the years Newsletters a success: Ray Anderson, Danté Fenolio, Jack Frenkel, Anthony Hundt, Bill Lutz, Dennis Mosley, Timothy Staab, and the British Dendrobatid Group and their members. Thanks to all. I'd also like to request articles for next year. I have a single article for the January-February issue and then I'm out. Please consider writing an article today and if you need help give me a call.

Care and maintenance of the Painted Mantella (*Mantella madagascariensis*)

Steve Martin

Reprinted with permission from the British Dendrobatid Group Newsletter, No. 21, p. 6-7. June 1994.

Probably the prettiest of all Mantella's is *Mantella madagascariensis*. This one inch long frog has a shiny black back with lemon yellow flecked with black on the middle flanks, upper thigh, front arms and shoulders. The side panels are also yellow flecked with black, except where broken by the black extending from the back, like a belt around the middle. The rear legs and feet are bright orange, lightly speckled with black. A cream color extends across the nose from side to side. The underside is black blotched with pale blue. At feeding time a well planted vivarium appears to be filled with butterflies, not frogs. Several color morphs exist, the most common form besides the one above is with lime green replacing the lemon yellow. Interbreeding of the colors seems normal practice with these animals.

Like its close relative, *M. aurantiaca*, it is found on the eastern side of Madagascar in humid open forest, where rainfall often exceeds 2 m a year! The combination of high rainfall and constant

off-shore wind means these frogs favor like cool temperatures (23-30°C). Unless it is possible to incorporate fans into your system, captive specimens are best kept at 22-24°C as they start to show distress if kept for prolonged periods at higher temperatures.

Kept in a planted vivarium with a floor covering of oak leaves, and sprayed daily with water at room temperature, you will soon have any adult males calling their "click, click" from under a leaf or in the opening of a "cave." A tank of 18"x18"x18" with adequate ventilation will easily hold a colony of 7 to 11 animals. Food items include greenfly (Ed., aphids), fruitflies and their larva, and crickets.

These frogs can be bred in several ways. In a well planted terrarium breeding tubes can be used. These are either 1" diameter plastic tubes (Ed.-1" diameter PVC tubing with an end cap will work), or you can make your own breeding tube by rolling up squares of capillary matting. If kept constantly wet spawning takes place at the closed end of the tube. Alternatively, set up a 3' fish tank with a layer of aquarium gravel, and top this with a 2" layer of shredded garden bark. Put your frogs in and lightly spray the tank for a week to 10 days, then turn off the light and heavily mist for 2 weeks. By this time you should have about 0.5" of water above the gravel base. Stop spraying and turn the lights back on after a further week. Upon investigating the bark, very carefully, I have found tadpoles of both *M. madagascariensis* and *M. aurantiaca*. I keep the tadpoles in large flora tubs, in groups of 10 to 12, in pond water with oak leaves added. The tadpoles are fed on Tetramin® tropical flake food every day, after a 90% water change. If kept at 23°C the tadpoles grow fast and leave the water after about twelve weeks, and are very small (3-5 mm). Keeping the water cooler, 16-18°C results in the tadpoles metamorphosing after 16 to 17 weeks, but the froglets are larger (5-6 mm) and therefore take larger food items.

Equally as colorful as any Dendrobatid and not requiring high temperatures, I would recommend *Mantella madagascariensis* to anyone interested in keeping tropical frogs.

Captive breeding of *Mantella aurantiaca*

Ray Anderson
Houston, Texas

Mantella's are able to breed in captivity if kept under ideal conditions. I keep a colony of eight *Mantella* (4-*M. aurantiaca*, 1-*M. madagascariensis*, 2-*M. viridis*, and 1-*M. cowani*) in a 35-gallon Lizard Lounge® by Oceanic. The only known male in this colony is a small *M. aurantiaca*. The frogs live in a well planted terrarium on a substrate of top soil. The top of the terrarium is covered by glass and has two vita light fixtures placed about 6" apart. Three small water bowls are kept in the terrarium with distilled water changed every two or three days. The terrarium is misted heavily in the morning and lightly in the evening. The lid is left partially open, about 2", to ensure air movement. The temperature in the terrarium rarely exceeds 80°F which is sufficient for *Mantella*'s.

Mantella frogs do best on a varied diet consisting of fruitflies, termites, and pinhead crickets. Frogs that are skinny and don't gain body mass are unbreedable and, unfortunately, usually perish. Healthy frogs are recognizable when they have a bright colors and well-rounded bellies. The food is dusted every feeding with powdered Rep-Cal®. *Mantella* frogs have very hearty appetites and

food should be offered every few days.

I have single male *Mantella aurantiaca* which is very persistent and will follow the females while bellowing short chirps. Female frogs that are ready to lay eggs will appear very bloated. The male will follow the female to a secluded place in the terrarium and will fertilize the eggs she lays. The eggs I got consists of a gelatinous mass with approximately 60 whitish eggs. The eggs are carefully removed with a spoon and placed in a petri dish with a thin layer of distilled water. The eggs were then placed in a darkened area. In approximately three days the embryos show signs of development. The embryo is white in color with black dots as eye spots. The tadpoles continue to develop for about 8 days when they wiggle out of the gelatinous mass. The layer of distilled water around the eggs in the petri dish will hold the tadpoles until they are removed. The mass which held about 60 eggs soon hatched 40 tadpoles. The remainder of the clutch molded and was discarded. The tadpoles were removed from the petri dish and placed in a five-gallon glass tank with about 1-inch of distilled water in the bottom. It is extremely important that this layer of water be changed every two days. An easy way to change the water is to draw it out using a turkey baster. However, you must be careful not to suck up any of the tadpoles. I added some aquatic plant pieces into the tank for hiding places for the tadpoles; they seem to like to congregate under the plants. Feeding the tadpoles was an easy feat. Their diet consisted of TetraMin Five-Star Formula. In approximately six weeks back legs had appeared on most , if not all, of the tadpoles. At this point I added a Vita Light® fixture over the tank. I then began to notice a few deformities on some of the tadpoles wherein the rear legs grew to one side. The remainder of the tadpoles developed normally. Front legs appeared after about eight weeks. Once a frog developed its front legs they remained aquatic for about three days more and then became froglets.

The froglets will then start to climb up the corners of the tank to get above the water. At this stage in the frogs life the tail is still apparent, but partially absorbed. The frogs can now be removed to a land environment. The frogs are carefully coerced on to a spoon and placed in a small terrarium with a white paper towel saturated with distilled water and overlain with cuttings of climbing ivy. Timing is the essential when moving the frogs to the land environment. I suspect that four of mine died due to removal from the water too soon. The froglets are very small and delicate at this point and need to be carefully handled. At this point the froglets are dark in color but will change to a lighter shade after about 17 days. The froglets need very small amounts of food to survive and this can be best supplied by 1-2 day old crickets, which are just about the right size for the frogs to tackle. I have seen frogs try and eat fruit flies, but the flies usually kick right out of their small mouths. If a froglet doesn't start to eat within three days of being removed from the water it will usually die.

At about 10 weeks all the tadpoles which survived had become froglets. About 5 tadpoles never sprouted legs and remained small until they perished. Of the remaining 34 tadpoles about half, 18, made it to healthy froglets. Approximately 11 of the 34 died at 1-2 days old of unknown reasons. The froglets that survived are kept the same way as the adults. They started taking on adult coloration between 20 and 50 days after metamorphism. As they grew the froglets became very brilliant in color.

HELPFUL HINTS

Poison Frogs on the World Wide Web - Anthony Hundt has located two web sites dealing with poison frogs. The first is the Nordic (Swedish) Dendrobatid Group (Nordiska Dendrobatid

Sällskapet) which can be located at <http://www.utu.fi/~tuokoivu/herps.nds.html>. The second is a Dendrobatid photo gallery located at <http://www.geopages.com/tokyo/1016/poison2.jpg>.

NEW LITERATURE

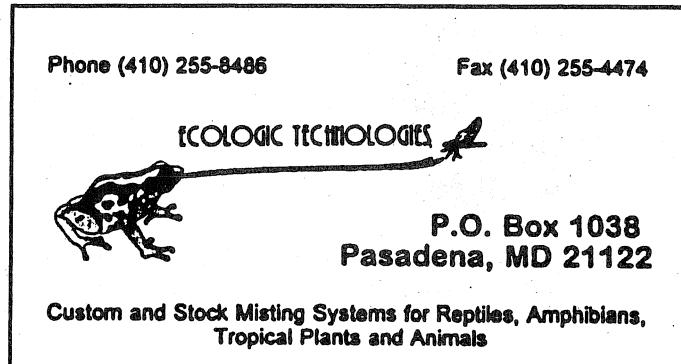
Dendrobatids

Pérez, Gloria R. de, Ruiz-Carranza, Pedro M., and Ramírez-Pinilla, M. Patricia, 1992, Modificaciones tegumentarias de larvas y adultos durante el cuidado parental en *Minyobates virolinensis* (Amphibia: Anura: Dendrobatidae). *Caldesia*, 17(1): 75-86.

ADS:

Rates for business card adds are \$10 per issue or \$50 per year. If you are interested please contact the Newsletter editor.

REPTILE SPECIALITIE (John Uhern, 7473 Foothill, Tujunga, CA 91042 Tel. (818) 352-1796; Fax (818) 353-7381) has various captive breed Dendrobatids imported for sale. Write or call for information.



DROSOPHILIA, fruit flies, wingless and flightless. Excellent food source. Reasonably priced cultures: \$6.00 ea or \$3.00 per dozen. Telephone: (800) 545-2303 or fax (516) 331-7969. Major credit cards accepted.

For Sale

Ads for sale of frogs, or requests or offering of breeding loans, etc. are free to members and will run for two issues only, unless the Newsletter editor is notified.

<i>Dendrobates auratus</i> 'Hawaii'	\$30 ea.	Eric Anderson
<i>Dendrobates leucomelas</i> 'Orange'	\$60 ea.	12231 Newberry Rd.
<i>Dendrobates tinctorius</i> 'Cobalt'	\$50 ea.	Gainesville, FL 32607
<i>Epipedobates tricolor</i> (2 color morphs)	\$50 ea.	(904) 332-7908

<i>Phylllobates vittatus</i>		Will Brown
tadpoles	\$25 ea .	1423 Alabama St.
froglets	\$35 ea. or 5/\$150	Lafayette, IN 47905 (317) 742-5331

Dendrobates histrionicus 'orange with black netting' - male
Dendrobates imitator 'Green'
Dendrobates pumilio 'Strawberry'
Dendrobates tinctorius 'Powder blue' - male

\$65
\$45 ea.
\$40 ea.
\$95

Tom Horn
174 Elm St.
Emmaus, PA 18049

Many *Dendrobates tinctorius* morphs and some half grown *Dendrobates leucomelas* 'Orange' (from unrelated females). Also various CB "thumbnail" size unrelated Dendrobatids. Prices are negotiable. Ted R. Kahn (P. O. Box 1375, Sterling, VA 20164-1375. Tel.: (703) 242-4543.

Dendrobates auratus
Dendrobates imitator
Dendrobates tinctorius 'powder blue'
Dendrobates tinctorius 'yellow back'
Red-eyed tree frogs

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\$50 ea.
\$75 ea.
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\$25 ea.

Todd D. Kelley
1469 Okanogan Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 665-9589
e-mail: TDKelley@aol.com

Mantella laevigata (captive breed)

\$40 ea.

Ian Maes
6136 Cedarwood
Las Vegas, NV 89103
(702) 873-2126

Dendrobates auratus 'Costa Rica'
Dendrobates leucomelas
10% discount for ADG members

\$25 ea.
\$45 ea.

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(904) 242-1616

Dendrobates auratus 'Zwartgroene' \$40 ea.
(a Panamanian form which is 80% black)

Plants:
4" pot of *Anthurium amazone* \$5 ea.
miniature *Anthurium* with red flower, great for frog tanks

4" pot - Bromeliads (6 to 8" tall) \$8 ea.

Charles Powell
2932 Sunburst Dr.
San Jose, CA 95111-2264
(408) 363-0926

Dendrobates azureus 'F1 from wild adults' \$150 ea.

Mark Pulawski
4191 Weathered Oaks Lane
Indian Springs, OH 45011
(513) 896-5531

<i>Dendrobates auratus</i> 'Costa Rica'	\$40 ea.	Tim Staab 1303-D Colbury Rd. Baltimore, MD 21239 (410) 296-7075
Jack Wattley (2500 Sea Island Dr., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301) is taking orders for F1 <i>Dendrobates azureus</i> tadpoles for \$150 ea. He also has a limited number of red, orange, and yellow <i>D. lehmanni</i> for sale for \$150 ea.		
Wanted: various <i>Phylllobates</i>		Nyles Bauer P. O. Box 3738 Tucson, AZ 85722 (520) 321-0225
<i>Dendrobates histrionicus</i> 'bulls eye' - male		Ron Gagliardo Atlanta Botanical Gardens Piedmont Park at Prado, Box 77246 Atlanta, GA 30357 (404) 636-5543
<i>Dendrobates azureus</i> <i>Dendrobates reticulatus</i> 'CB' <i>Phylllobates terribilis</i>		Jim Hartung 1890 W. Hillcrest Dr. Newbury Park, CA 91320
Single red and black male <i>Dendrobates lehmanni</i> looking for a single red and black female. Contact Anthony Hundt (P. O. Box 284, Ottawa, IL 61350 Tel.: (815) 433-4679).		
<i>Dendrobates tinctorius</i> 'cobalt' - female		Brian Lang 2010A S. 9th St. Manitowoc, WI 54220 (414) 683-1759 evenings after 7 PM
<i>Dendrobates imitator</i> - female		Eric Pflaging Hillside Herps 220 Hillside Dr. Clermont, FL 34711 (904) 242-1616
<i>Dendrobates fantasticus</i> - male		Charles Powell 2932 Sunburst Dr. San Jose, CA 95111-2264 (408) 363-0926

Dendrobates auratus 'Panama' - female

Aaron Savino
211 S. Fremont St., #110
San Mateo, CA 94401

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AMERICAN TARANTULA SOCIETY: For enthusiasts and scientists. Forum magazine (6/yr) educational, entertaining and readable. Over 150 Accurate scientific & common names of tarantulas and scorpions in each issue. Contact: ATS, P. O. Box 2594, S. Padre Island, TX 78597. \$15/year US, \$20 Canada, \$30 elsewhere.

CHAMELEON INFORMATION NETWORK: The CiN is a member supported organization with an interest in the old world family of Chamaeleonidae. It publishes a quarterly publication (The CiN Newsletter) for \$12/4 issues, \$22/8 issues. Foreign subscribers add \$1.50 for each issue. For subscription information contact: Ken Kalisch, 412 West E St., Encinitas, CA 92024. Tel.: (619) 436-7978. Send all payments to: Ardi Abate, 13419 Appalachian Way, San Diego, CA 92129.

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